<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>

The status of the claims as presently amended is as follows:

1. (*Previously Presented*) An automatic performance apparatus comprising:

a storage device that stores automatic performance data and accompaniment pattern data having a plurality of sections;

a detector that detects a specific note in the automatic performance data;

a reproduction device that simultaneously reproduces the automatic performance data supplied from the storage device and a section of the accompaniment pattern data; and

a controller that controls the reproduction device to switch reproduction of the section of the accompaniment pattern data to another section of the accompaniment pattern data when a reproduction point of the automatic performance data by said reproduction device reaches a point corresponding to the detected specific note.

2. (*Previously Presented*) An automatic performance apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

the detector detects a first note of the automatic performance data, and

the controller controls the reproduction device to reproduce a first section of the accompaniment pattern data from a beginning of the automatic performance data to a top or end of a measure having the detected first note and to reproduce a second section of the accompaniment pattern data after the first section.

3. (*Previously Presented*) An automatic performance apparatus comprising:

a storage device that stores performance data and accompaniment pattern data having a plurality of sections;

a detector that detects a specific note in the performance data;

a reproduction device that simultaneously reproduces the performance data and the accompaniment pattern data; and

a controller that controls the reproduction device to change the section at a point of the detected specific note,

wherein the detector further detects a blank section of the performance data, and

wherein the controller further controls the reproduction device to reproduce a first section for the detected blank section.

2

4. (*Previously Presented*) An automatic performance apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the controller further controls the reproduction device to reproduce a second section for the detected blank section when the detected blank section is shorter than a specific time length.

5. (*Previously Presented*) An automatic performance apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the specific note detected by the detector is a last note of the automatic performance data.

6. (*Currently Amended*) A computer-readable medium storing an automatic performance program comprising the instructions for:

~~Reading~~ reading automatic performance data and accompaniment pattern data having a plurality of sections from a storage device;

detecting a specific note in the automatic performance data;

simultaneously reproducing the automatic performance data supplied from the storage device and a section of the accompaniment pattern data; and

controlling the reproduction device to switch reproduction of the section of the accompaniment pattern data to another section of the accompaniment pattern data when a reproduction point of the automatic performance data by said reproduction device reaches a point corresponding to the detected specific note.